HARRIS AND BRUCE'S ACCOUNTS-THE PRETEN-SIONS OF KING THEODORES TO A DISTINGUISHED PEDIGREE - 18 QUEEN MAQUEDA THE QUEEN SHEBA OF SCRIPTURE !- JEWS IN ABYSSINIA.

A derisive smile overspread the face of the incredulous American public when it was announced that Theodore, the recently conquered and killed despot of Abyssinia, claimed to be a descendant of Solomon. The newspapers printed the dusky potentate's pretensions in a brief paragraph, with the sufficient comment of an admiration point! That was as much as to imply that nothing need be said further upon a claim so preposterous. But thereby hangs a tale, or rather a curious conglomerate of fact and fable, le gend and history.

There is a tide in the affairs of books, as well as of men. In 1845, or thereabouts (our copy has lost its title page), Mr. J. Winchester of this city reprinted an account of the mission of Captain, afterward Major, W. C. Harris, Bombay Engineers, to Sahela Selassic, the King of Shoa, in Southern Abyssinia. Just when the book was published there seemed to be no extended interest in its subject, certainly not in this country, probably not in England. All that was hoped was the opening of a new avenue of trade. The revelations of this first official intercourse with Shoa did not promise much in that direction, and subsequent events have confirmed the wisdom of the doubts of the mercantile interest, shrewd in its generation. The whole profits of the trade with Abyssinia have not amounted to enough to pay Major Harris's expenses, to say nothing of later outlays. And here is the real key to the occurrences which led to the late war and the death of Theodore. Intercourse with Abyssinia did not pay. When a stock in Wall-st. or on the London Exchange is neglected, it dies, and leaves no sign, except the sign minus, to the shareholders. But King Theodore, whose advent dates a few years after Major Harris's expedition, did not so coolly take the cold shoulder. When he was chilled by British neglect, he warmed himself by re taliation on such British subjects as were in his power. He could not, or would not, understand how magnificent overtures could degenerate into the vexatious lilatoriness of red tape. A despot is as capricious as : woman, and Theodore furnished a nearer parallel to a woman scorned" than is given in the familiar line which sends us to a warmer place than Abyssinia. H Mr. Winchester's book were in the market just now, it might, perhaps, find parchasers. It was published twenty years too soon, and is probably now not only out of print but out of existence, having found its way into "pulp" during the recent high price of paper. It is not at all improbable that the readers of THE TRIBUNE have had Major Harris's work on their breakfast-tables, in the unrecognizable form of a morning paper, the modern palimpsest which defies all ingenuity to restore the original. Many valuable books have been thus destroyed, to the great grief of bibliopoles; but the public will have its fresh journals if stale books go by the tun to furnish the daily demand. We shall be giving some thing few of our readers have seen if we reproduce a few facts from Harris's travels.

From Harris, as also from the traveler Bruce, we can perceive that King Theodore's pretensions to a distinguished pedigree, whatever amusement they may create here, command as much respect in Abyssinia as the claims of any royal line receive in Europe. A catalogue of 110 Arabic and Ethiopic manuscripts, now extant in Abyssinia, is given. From one of these, Kebra za Negest, "The glory of the Kings," we learn the historical fact, unknown before out of Abyssinia, that in former days the dominion of the world was divided between Ittopia, or Ethiopia, and Rome-the dividing line being the parallel on which Jerusalem is situated-and that the rulers of both kingdoms, Solomon included (excuse anachronisms), were the descendants of Shem. The present royal families of Abyssinia are descended from King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba, or Ethiopia. This Queen, Maqueda by name, being informed by merchant Tamerin of the wisdom and glory of Solomon visited that monarch in Jerusalem, as is recorded in the Jewish annals.

the Kebra za Negest, though overlooked by the chroniclers of Israel. After her return to her own land, the Queen Maqueda was enabled, in due course of time, to send back to King Solomon an Ethiopian son, to be educated in all the wisdom of his father. The son was carefully reared, and duly returned. with a princely retinue of priests and counselors, to his mother. His name was called David; he reigned long and wisely, and is a recognized saint in the Abyssinian calendar. He must have left a large progeny, since every pretender to rule in the various tribes of Abyssinia must establish his descent from David, the son of Solomon, before he can have even a presumptive show to the right of ruling. Though every native of Abyssinia is ready to swear

But consequences followed which are preserved in

by the name of Solomon, there are some difficulties in the way of this story. Not the least of these is, that the name Saba, Seba, or Sheba, is very indefinite, meaning the South, and that the Arabs in the southern part of the peninsula also claim the Queen of Sheba, who, they say, was one of Solomon's wives. Mahomet gives his authority to the legend, whatever that authority may be worth. As the Christians and Mahometans of Ethiopia hate each other with mutual intensity, it may be that this dispute about the proprietorship in the Queen of Sheba has some thing to do with their animosity. While, so far as we know, there are now no Hebrews who claim descent from Solomon, the Arabs have produced many who would assert their descent from him, undier the shelter of his extended commubial relations. The Queen of Sheba, however, has been appropriated only by the two peoples of whom we are speaking. Scholars are divided; and authorities, as learned as any who have written, rule the Ethiopians out of court altogether.

But the Abyssinians never have consulted those authorities, and stand by their claim almost to a man. The traveler Bruce inclines to these opinions, and devotes some space to showing that intercourse with Jerusalem was neither difficult or unlikely in the time of Solomon. Bruce gives, in his travels, substantially the same account of the Abyssinian royal line as is given by Major Harris-neither writer vonching for its correctness. Indeed, the Kebra za Negest, from which both writers draw their information, relates some matters which, to use a qualified phrase, are "slightly impossible."

There are a few points in the history of this singular people which may be considered fixed. One is, that, from the earliest record of time which the Abyssinians have preserved, there have been Jews among them. The royal banner, still retained, has the de vice of a lion, and the legend: "The lion of the race of Solomon and the tribe of Judah hath overcome." Among the atrocities of the late King Theodore, the following is spoken of as "an unaccountably mad freak." A young Irishman, who had been hunting in Abyssinia, wished to pay King Theodore a compliment. He presented His Majesty a rug, on which was woven a representation of Jules Gerard, the French hunter, attacking a lion. The King was incensed. He knew nothing about Gerard ; but he saw that his picture in hunting costume, probably something in the Zouave style, looked like a Mahometan, his natural enemy. And he knew that he himself was the representative of the lion of the tribe of Judah, at which lion the man in a fez on the carpet was represented to be firing, with more than a fair chance of victory. So he ordered the young Irishman into prison. We can certainly see in this incident as much of the facility for getting into a scrape, which is said to mark the Hibernian, as we can see of "unaccountable" madness on the part of the King. No doubt, Theodore considered the picture personal. So would Her Majesty Victoria, if she were presented with a picture representing a Fenian breaking the heads of the lion and the unicorn with his shillelah.

Another fact is, that in the fourth century a large part of the Abyssinians embraced Christianity. It has degenerated to a mongrel description of Christianity, certainly; but this is scarcely to be wondered at. The Jews, from whatever cause they migrated Into Abyssinia, had before the advent of Christianity molded the character and fixed the institutions of the country, and that to a degree of which there is no other instance. The nearest resemblance to it is among the Nestoriaus of Asia. The Abyssinian cal-

endar counts among its saints and angels, Job, Raguel from the Apocrypha), Isaiah, Moses, Zacharias son of Barachias, Michael the Archangel, Jonah, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, Elijah the prophet, and many more from the Jewish history. We have noted the above names as they stand in the calendar, for the two first months, as a specimen of the year. Along with them are notables from the Roman, the Grecian, and the Coptic Churches, and not a few peculiar to Abyssinia. The proverb that Christmas comes but once a year does not apply here, for Christmas comes in every month, and Michael the Archangel, and several others, have also a monthly commemoration. The Jewish Sabbath and the first day of the week are both observed by the devout. Major Harris rather uncharitably remarks that two days of rest fall in very well with the native inclination. The fasts devote more than half the year to abstinence; but the Abyssinian devotee takes his revenge be tween the days, and makes up in the night for his

daily abstinence. The original idolatry of the country, a serpent worship, underlies the Jewish contribution to the Abyssinian character, and upon both the Christian religion, as they received it, was engrafted. Romish missionaries in the fifteenth century added still more to the heterogeneous faith. The Roman teachers admired, as well they might, the native Christians, who had resisted the followers of Mahomet for centuries. The Roman missionaries were expelled from Abyssinia, as from China and Japan, though both Latins and Greeks, as we have noted, have contributed names to the native calendar. No doubt, the prophet of Mecca added something to the curious melange of faith and practice, though the Abyssinian. Christians are filthy on principle to show their abhorrence of the Mahometan washings. Perhaps some more enlightened Christians fall sometimes into a like error.

It is not difficult to guess who originated the story of the royal line of Solomon. The wandering Jews could have found no better pretext for obtaining power than that of having furnished the royal family. In their creed, the Christians of Abyssinia are Coptic. The distinguishing tenet of that Church is what is termed by theologians the "Monophysite heresy," which was condemned in the Council of Chalcedon. Dioscorus, the Bishop of Alexandria, a leader in the heresy, was exiled. But the Abyssinians lenounced the Council as a meeting of fools; gave to the banished Bishop the honors of a martyr, and, since his death, a place in the calendar. With the Egyptians, the Abyssimans have had a monopoly of the "Monophysite heresy" for nearly 1,500 years.

Their churches are crowded with priests, and the land is abundantly supplied with monasteries. In Africa, the monastic system began. For the rest, it is proper to say, that, with all the ignorance and superstition of these poor creatures, the Christians are by far the best people in the country, and the idolatrous tribes who retain their original worship are the worst. The ancient literature of this strange people is far above contempt. It is even poetical, judging from the brief extracts which have reached us in the relations of travelers. Frumentius of Tyre, who fell into the hands of the Abyssinians as a prisoner, and afterward converted the nation, is celebrated as their first missionary, under the name of Salama. Wonderful are the miracles recorded of him in the subduing of the great serpent and his worshipers. Ethiopian poetry not only runs riot in miracles, but is capable of strains that would not disgrace a Christian poet of any land. Thus is celebrated the honor of the Apostle of Abyssinia:

Hail him with the voice of joy, sing praises to Salama, The door of pity and of mercy and of pleasant grace; Salute those blessed hands bearing the pure torch of the Gospel.

For the spiendor of Christ's Church has enlightened our darkness.

It is pleasant to know that there are native Africans capable of maintaining a Church of their own against idolatry and Mahometanism for so many centuries, even if that Church does not come up to the standard of enlightened Christendom. If any of our readers desire to know more of them, there is a readable article in The Atlantic for June. Major Harris's book (from which we have drawn largely). if any copies have escaped the paper-mill, is quite worth reading. We think that a competent person, availing himself of the official reports which have been published, and others which will be, might construct a very interesting volume. He should be a scholar, familiar with Christian antiquities. Kingsley could make a splendid tale of "Frumentius," the disciple of Athanasius. His researches in producing Hypatra would lead him to the proper sources of in-

RAILROAD PROJECTS-COMPARATIVE COSTS 01 ROADS IN MEXICO AND THE UNITED STATES -MEXICANIZED STOCK-FOREIGN CAPITAL.

Mexico, June 1.1868.

The failure of railroad projects, for the present, is, in part, the failure of Congress. The Vera Cruz Railroad concession is adjourned three months hence, which is equivalent to putting off the most important railroad enterprise in Mexico for a year. This is the result of a sad bungling all round, and a special want of vigor on the part of the Company itself, added to the consideration that large quantities of Mexican money have been spent upon the road already. Congress is not primarily at fault, yet it is quite plain that the road ought to be built, and that delays thereof are dangerous to peace and industry. The Mexico and United States Railroad project has been rejected on account of being too violently engineered, if not because, as we hear rumored, that engineered, it not because, as we hear tumored, that Gen. Fremont had something to do with it. The Mexico and Tuzpan Railroad was lately reported as being under way, but nothing more is heard of it. The project of a line from El Paso to the Pacific coast, in which the rich McManus brothers of Chihuahna and distinguished parties in the United States were believed to rowsess interests, is nostroned for further believed to possess interests, is postponed for further hearing. Some English capitalists, who have their agent here, propose to run a line from one of the largest of the interior towns to Guamos on the Paconnecting with whatever line is to come from citic, connecting with whatever line is to come from Texas through Mexico. An additional scheme is offered by a member of the Mexican Congress, whose capitalists ask a line from Mexico to the Pacific, running by the largest towns. There is another plan to run from the middle of the Rio Grande boundary through the republic to the Pacific, passing the large centers. At the tail of this exchange to recombinate and in fact Mexico. cific, passing the large centers. At the tail of this project is a scheme to popularize, and, in fact, Mexicanize the stock of railroads. A national militia is to be organized for the security of every State and its enterprises against pronounced bandits, and no voter is to be exempt from duty unless he owns a certain amount of railroad stock. This is the substance of the plan, the details of which I leave to the invariant or Strange as it may appear, where the imagination. Strange as it may appear, where roads and stocks are so pienty, and doubtful as may be its entertainment, any plan that can put stock and enterprise in the hands of the Mexican people, and save them from the fear of foreign enterprise, ought to be highly welcome to them. Zangroniz's track, partly for mule and partly for locomotive, is the only enterprise thus far conceded by the present Congress—governed, as it appears, by an exceeding desire not to be rash, and te sell their birthright for pottage. Mr. Lesare has been here awaiting a disposition to reasonably modify the somewhat stringent nottage. Mr. Lesare has been here awaiting a dispo-sition to reasonably modify the somewhat stringent concession of the Tehuantepee line to New-York and New Orleans capitalists. The Committee of Con-gress have reported in favor of the line. By very necessity next session must bring forth better results. every day without railroad is a day of penance wone ought to know this better than the Mexican The Vera Cruz road has long been the topic of a

the necessity for erecting costly structures for

and here is another great cost. A better comparison, he thinks, may be found in the American roads, such as those of Erie, Penusylvania, and Baltimore, and Ohio, which, upon the average, cost about \$73,000 a nule, and are, in the nature of the obstructions they have overcome, like the Vera Cruz road. But a better basis of calculation is furnished by the further branch of the Pacific ruilroad, the relative distance and hights of which, and of the Mexico and Vera Cruz Railroad, so closely approximate on the first ascent that "even au engineer might infer that they were but two experimental lines of survey over the same route." Here follows a table of distances and elevations that cannot fail to be interesting to engineers in the United States:

Elevation above the sea in miles. Pacific Vera Crus Railroad. Railroad Elevation above 1 Miles. 7043 5800 4500

Hereupon drawing from his actual experience of the working of the Pacific Railroad, he estimates that such a road would not cost more than \$72,000 \$72,000 ile in 295 miles, or, in all, \$21,325,000. The cost

of the Vera Cruz road averages as follows: 9,120,000 \$21,995,000

It is Mr. Payne's estimate that a road of 226 miles ought to cost no more than \$13,000,000, at \$45,762 per mile. This is the Mexican side of the question. Mr. Crawley says that it should cost \$25,845,000, at \$91,000 per mile. This is the English side of the question. Mr. Gorsuch thinks 236 miles on the Pacric Railroad basis should cost no more than \$21,325,000. at \$72,288 per mile. This may be termed the American point of the controversy. The last figure is about right.

The notion of naturalizing the stock of railways belongs to Mr. Edmund Stephenson, an Englishman long resident here. Premising that the baneful system of pressing men into service ought to be substiment of the stock of the substiment of t

long resident here. Premising that the bahem system of pressing men into service ought to be substituted by conscription, he would make the owning of railroad stock a means of exemption. He would have shares paid in mouthly installments of \$2 each, so that the poorest might become stockholders—calculating that hundreds would be saving who were never so before, and that the railroads, like the stock of a great national loan, would be in the hands of the of a great national loan, would be in the hands of the people. He recounts that out of a party of 14 Mexicans, mostly poor, to whom he had once put the case experimentally, he summed up 56 shares, upon which he says: "I saw that I touched a fiber of the national heart. I am led to affirm that the man who says that the Mexicans have no patriotism is a foreigner who does not know them, or is a bad Mexican."

Mr. Stephenson does not provide against the alienation of exemption stock, but this is a difficulty to be got over; and, in fine, so trustful is he of the success of his plan, that if the Government would adopt it he could, without remuneration or priviledge, get

cess of his plan, that if the Government would adopt it he could, without remnneration or priviledge, get together 40,000 shares for the Leon, Guanajuato and Queretaro road. Another plan for the Mexicanizing of railroad stock comprehends the establishment of a Bancode Avio (a bank of provision, literally) with branches along one of the projected routes to the Pa-cific. These plans illustrate the want and ambition cific. These plans illustrate the want and amoution of Mexico-lirst, railroad; second, the ownership of railroads. That this amoution will be satisfied as far as possible is greatly to be desired. What nation, without pause or reserve, would give away a dozen of its most important privileged interests to foreigners—interests involving in single cases capital and costs not less than the income of the Republic itself f. Railroad interests. ome of the Republic itself f Railroad interests, powerful as they are in the United States, would obviously constitute a great influence in such a country as Mexico. Whatever be our views as to the urgent need of railroads there, the Republic has a right to be its own master, and to see that its rails are well laid. The exclusive policy, on the other hand, is imprecticable in many senses. practicable in many senses.

THE UNION LEAGUE OF PHILADELPHIA

ITS ORGANIZATION, ITS PURPOSES AND ITS WORK.

From Our Special Correspondent.
PHILADELPHIA, July 1, 1868. It is unquestionable that no political association in this country is better known than the Union League of Philadelphia. Organized at the darkest hour of the rebellion it wrought out for itself a history as honorable as that attained by any institution owing its origin to the spirit of liberty. When one recalls the 27th day of December, 1832-the day of its organization-he cannot but feel anew something of the depressing influence of that terrible Winter when the Rappahannock and the Yazzo were the scenes of such terrible disasters to our troops. If 1861 had its Bull Run, 1862 had its Peninsular defeat and the horrors of the Chickahominy; yea, a second Bull Run disaster opened up the way for the invasion of Maryland and the almost evenly balanced field at Antietam was a temporary but inadequate recompense for the losses that had gone before. When the repulse of Burnside at Fredericksburg, and of Sherman at Vicksburg, were added, our cup of bitterness overflowed, and patriotic hearts were almost palsied with despair. But worse even than all this were the bickerings of faction at the North; and so intolerable had the covert sneers and open gibes of Copperheads and Rebel sympathizers become, that, in their first annual report, the directors of the Philadelphia depressing influence of that terrible Winter when annual report, the directors of the Philadelphia Union League were constrained to say: "In those dark and dispiriting days, the League House was regarded by some as a refuge rather than as a resort

regarded by some as a refuge rather than as a resort for loyalty—a place where patriotism might harbor from social antagonisms, rather than a public forum whence it might speak to the nation." The Philadelphia Union League has a history pe-culiarly its own, and even the details of its increase in membership and annual income are interesting. At the end of the first year the League numbered 908 At the end of the first year the League numbered 908 members, and its receipts had been \$48,621, and its expenditures \$24,813, leaving a balance in the treasury of \$23,808. The next year its membership reached 1,129, and while its disbursements were about the same as the previous year the balance in its treasury increased to \$37,164. At the close of the third year the membership numbered 1,760, and the receipts from all sources, including the balance of the previous year, were \$124,944, its disbursements, \$91,978. On the list of December 1866 the roll contained the names of 1,970 members, the highest number ever attained at the period of 1806 the roll contained the names of 1,970 members, the highest number ever attained at the period of making the annual reports of the League. The statement of "men and money" already adduced, is necessary to a full understanding of the work accomplished by the League, independently of its domestic income and expenditures. Its membership was large and its disbursements small for a club of a social, as well as political character, but the membership was

and its disbursements small for a club of a social, as well as political character; but the membership was very small, indeed, for the large outlays aside from its domestic expenses, which were constantly made in aid of the war and its heroes.

The League started without any specific purpose, but drifted naturally into the course which made it such a power in the land. The desire to disseminate patriotic principles was one of the first that sprung up in the minds of its members. A Board of Publication was appointed and begun operations with a fund of over \$30,000, subscribed by members of the League. A portion of the League-House was devoted to this work. The good accomplished by the dissemination of its publications cannot be estimated, and even the State Central Committee of this State, in beginning the campaign of 1863, made application for and received a large supply of the pamphlets of the League. More than 2,000,000 copies of speeches and pamplies were distributed before the close of the war, and the imprint of the Union League of Philadelphia has been seen wherever there were mails to delphia has been seen wherever there were mails to carry its publications.

The League had made extensive preparations for a

The League had made extensive preparations for a National celebration of the Fourth of July, 1863. But in the latter part of June the guerrilla Jenkins and his band invaded the State, proving the advance guard of Lee's army. A division of the Rebel Gen. Early's corp penetrated to Wrightsville, opposite Columbia, on the Susquehanna River, and Carlisle was bombarded by the forces under Gen. Fitzhugh Lee, and the Government buildings destroyed. Harrisburg was threatened, and whether Philadelphia or Baltimore would be the next objective point was doubtful. Gettysburg decided \$\frac{1}{2}\text{the issue, but before that contest gave a new significance to the National Anniversary, the project of the League had been abandoned, and the funds raised for the purpose devoted to strengthening the defenses of the State. Three regiments were organized, equipped, and sent forward before the military authorities had need of their services. Assistance was also given to the "Dana"

ments were organized, equipped, and sent forward before the military authorities had need of their services. Assistance was also given to the "Dana Troop" in completing its equipment; and on the return of the three regiments from their campaign on the border, an effort was at once successfully made to raise a three years' regiment.

These regiments did good service, and returned home with the well-carned plaudits of the loyal people on the Border. A letter written to The Kichmond Sentinel at this time said of these people, "Some think Gov, Curtin has a wand by which he can collect a body of militia who will whip us out of our boots," but the letter continues, "A man in town said to-day that the State militia did them worse than our own men." In this latter assertion it must be confessed there is some truth. The "Anderson Cavalry," a troop of young men raised as a bodyguard originally for Gen. Buell, who afterward disgraced themselves at Murfreesborough, but who had at that time as little training as had the militia in 1863, the previous year galloped all over Southern Pennsylvania and Western Maryland on horses provided by the farmers, and then signalized their services by stealing the horses that were not ridden to death. These animals were never paid for either by the State or General governments. A regiment of the N. Y. S. N. G. encamped a mile south of Chambersburg, who returned to your city to complain loudly of their treatment by the "Pennsylvania Dutch," abandoned their camp in terror two days before the approach of the Rebels, and would have gone home doned their camp in terror two days before the approach of the Rebels, and would have gone home without their knapsacks, many without their arms

even, had not the Dutchmen carried these things after them until their legs gave out, and they could

be overtaken by their friends, whose kindness was returned with slander. The Union League of Philadelphia has to congratulate itself that its soldiers earned a better fame among these people.

The work of the Military Committee of the League did not step hers. Refers the close of the war, pine

The work of the Military Committee of the League did not stop here. Before the close of the war nine effective regiments, two battalions, and a troop of cavalry had been sent into the field, making altogether a force of about 10,000 men, and involving an expenditure of over \$100,000. Wounded soldiers, freedmen, and the families of volunteers were all assisted and cared for by the League, and in many other ways was the usefulness of the association manifested, and its influence felt.

One of the first effects of its organization was to awaken a spirit of imitation. Its example was approved on all sides, and followed to so great an extent that the League found it necessary to prepare a printed letter of instructions for instituting similar associations elsewhere. Immediately Leagues arose in nearly every town and village in the land. In their first annual report the Directors said: "If the parent League had produced no more than this brood of faithful offspring, it would have accomplished a great work. Everywhere loyalty was consolidated and made effective. It became something more than a mere sentiment; it became a resolute spirit that moved into combined action a multitude of influential men. From these focal centers went forth opinions that enlightened their various neighborhoods. moved into combined action a multitude of influential men. From these focal centers went forth opinions that enlightened their various neighborhoods. Men ne longer feared to speak aloud in their country's cause. The mere act of as sociation had inspired that courage. Instead of shrinking from the disastrous prohecies and threats of the traitors, we predicted and cautioned in turn. The very fact of our existence was a standing rebuke to disloyal men; and the sight of our flags illed their hearts with intolerable memories of their own falsehood." The political course of the League was always patriotic, never merely partisan. Presialways patriotic, never merely partisan. Plent Lincoln was the candidate of Association for reflection, even before Association for reflection, even before the meeting of the Baltimore Convention, and during the canvass, the Union League of Philadelphia was among the most active and efficient of his supporters. The League now supports Gen. Grant with as much warmth as it supported President Lincoln four years ago. Soon after the new League House, one of the linest structures in the city, was occupied, Gen. Grant became the invited guest of the League. In testifying their respect for him, the report for 1865 says: "No member of the League will soon forget the animated scene which marked the reception of Leat.-Gen. Grant within this hall, nor the strong emotions which were manifested by many individuals in the array that passed in peaceful review before him." Association for reelectron, Association for reelectron, the Baltimore the Union

fested by many individuals in the array that passed in peaceful review before him."

The example of the League, once so generally copied, is worthy of imitation still. The State House and the League House, while they are the peculiar honor of Philadelphia, are the property of the whole nation, since the associations which cling about them represent what is best and most patriotic in the two great crises of this country. It is not too later to be great crises of this country. It is not too late to be inspired by the glories of Independence Square—it is just the season to emulate the example of the League. The supporters of Gen. Grant, of a just policy of re-construction, and of liberty and a lasting peace could construction, and of liberty and a lasting peace could revive with profit during the canvass the associa-tions modeled after the Union League of Philadelphia, which were suffered to die out in the inactivity that followed the surrender of Lee. The surrender of the Democracy is as important now as it was on the 9th of April, 1865, and Union Leagues throughout the country could do much to secure its defeat.

OUR PACIFIC RAILROADS.

THE FRENZY FOR GRANTING GOVERNMENT AID. To the Editor of The Tribune.

Six: The endowment by Government of private corporations with the people's money involves a danger so palpable that the occasions should be very are and the necessity imperative. The precedent already established in favor of the Pacific Eailroad is regarded by speculators as offering an invitation to unlimted plunder of the Treasury; and unless some influence can be interposed between Congress and the voracious obby that clingseto it, this exceptional species of legisla, tion threatens to become the rule, to the serious angmentation of the public debt and the corruption of pubic virtue. I see no such sufficient influences except an awakened interest in the minds of the people, and no dequate medium for its exercise except the press.

Mr. Richardson's letter was timely, in so far as

ounded a note of alarm against the fresh demands of

hat grossly pampered corporation owning the road known as the "Union Pacific Railroad, Eastern Divi ion," and in stating some of the reasons why these de ands are unworthy of consideration. But he omitted me most important facts of which the public should be minded. Before any Congressional aid was given to this Company, then known as the "Leavenworth, Pawnee and Western Railroad Co.," was virtually endowed with two of the finest tracts of land in Kansas, having been allowed to purchase, by treaty, the reserved lands of the Delaware Indians, lying between Leaven worth and Lawrence-absolutely the most valuable in Kansas; and the reserved lands of the Potawatomic Indians, in the Kansas valley, between Topcka and Manhattan, not greatly inferior. The price of these choice lands, surrounded on all sides by settlements, was much less than that asked by the Gov ernment for those which the most distant frontiersman had passed by in disdain; and the terms were so liberal as to enable the bulk of payment to be made out of the receipts of sale. To effect such purficials and the consent of the Senate; and all conversant with the facts know that they were regarded as practical ndowments of wonderful richness. Properly used, ese lands, aggregating, if I remember right, nearly 1,000,000 acres, would cover the cost of building a road through so admirable a region as the Kansas Valley, from he Missouri River to the Rocky Mountains, And yet, in addition to this prior endowment, this road, when incorporated into the Pacific scheme, secured the same splendid subsidies and loans given to the main line and other branches. This was the condition of this corporation when it asumed its present name and commenced the work of construction. Had that work, after the death of Mr. Hallett, en prosecuted with the vigor he displayed, and had faith been kept with the Government in regard to its union with the main line, the States of Kansas and Mis ouri, as well as all the country drained by the Ohio and Potomac Rivers, with the great cities of St. Louis, Cincinnati, and Baltimore, would to-day be in direct communication with the mines of Colorado and Wyoming and sure to be connected with Utah, Nevada, and the Pacific coast, at the same moment as New-York, Philadelphia, and Chicago. The plan of Congress was-one trunk ne, on the parallel of Chicago, with eastern branches reaching north and south, to accommodate the entire compass of the loyal States. This Kansas branch, too, running through a settled and productive region, and nnecting such important sections might have been immediately and enduringly profitable, and the most valuable franchise of the whole system. With all these gifts and natural advantages-in the face of bad faith and tardy progress-having by their own act cut loose from the trunk line, and wandered off toward the desert, with what propriety can this Company now prefer, or Congress entertain, a demand for money to build their road through a region utterly worthless, in order to reach a new line to the Pacific, which, when attained, they would probably find in the possession of a rival far better situated, geographically, for its improvement?

The case of the "Northern Pacific Railroad Company" s no better. No well-informed man can expect it to be built on the line contemplated in the charter-otherwise, why do not the gentlemen owning the franchise proceed with the construction ! It has already from the Government a promise of almost innumerable acres of that valu able territory so eloquently described by Mr. R.; and if the project is feasible, these lands should be an ample guaranty, to the rich men who own the charter, for a full reimbursement of all money required, leaving the capital stock a clear profit. In fact, many of these gentlemen are the same who control the Kansas road; and it does not need the utterance of Gov. Marshall's generous sentiment, to give aid to both companies, to show us that these pro jects hunt in couple. They, and he, would obligingly open the Treasury vaults—so plethoric—and allow such as choose to help themselves. But before voting further grants to the "Northern Pacific Railroad." I hope each member of Congress will examine a correct map and read the recent reports. If, after doing this, he can so vote, he is past all surgery, except at the hands of his constituents.

This road is projected from Lake Superior to Puget Sound, traversing Minnesota, Dakota, Montana, and Washington. Its general course is across the country, at right angles with the water-courses; and it flings itself against the mountain ranges where they are apparently impassable. Were it practical to build it on this line, it would prove a good feeder-so far as it could feed anything-to the Grand Trunk and Inter-Colonial Railways of the Canadian Dominion; and our neighbors would be very willing to take any of its freights direct to Liverpool via Halifax, rather than compel them to a circuit via New-York. And supposing the line to be actually completed, ten years hence, we should find Astoria and Portland and Puget Sound, with all of Oregon and Washington, and the best part of British Columbia, to be nearer New-York, in miles and days, by way of the Snake Valley and Union Pacific Roads, than by this northern one! Here is a case. We have, at great ex-pense, endowed and secured a trunk line across the mountains and plains, to connect the Northern States with the Pacific Coast: and an easy branch of some hundred or two miles in length, from this line, at some point in Utah, will give us all the commerce of the Snake

and Columbia Valleys, and Southern British Columbia,

by a route as nearly straight as possible; and yet we inno-

cently babble of the necessity of reaching these same points by a circuitous route involving thousands of miles of new road through an unexplored region! So far as the intermediate country is concerned, Chicago, aided by New-York, is already penetrating Minnesota with roads, for her own sake; and the Upper Missouri and Yellowstone Rivers give us now very comfortable access to Dakota and Montana. Up the valleys of these rivers, St. Louis and Chicago, aided by their respective allies, will soon be pushing lines in self-defense. To aid in developing these Territories, the Government does not need to expend a dollar of money; grants of land may be judiciously made, and the value of the remainder be thus in-

creased. In time, we may need a North-West Pacific Railroad ot to connect Lake Superior and Puget Sound, but to unite the Mississippi Valley with Aliaska. This will be after the annexation of British America (about which there is no hurry), and will seek, by proximately following the isothermal line, to open up the Valleys of the Red River, the Assiniboin, the Athabaska, and the Kwikpak, and connect New-York Bay with Behring Sea. But as we are not quite prepared for this enterprise, I will dismiss it.

A few words about the "military necessity" of these oads. The argument for Government aid to build roads for the transportation of Indian troops and supplies, if it proves anything, proves too much; we must have one built to every Fort, and provide in this way for an unlimited transportation of soldiers, horses, arms, ammunition stores, whisky, and Indian goods, and traders. But it is beyond belief that our present infamous Indian system can much longer continue; this monster of civil administration must soon yield to an enlightened public opinion. Every man familiar with the West and with Washington knows that our Indian difficulties are all unnecessary; it is not the Indian tribes that we should make war upon, but the Indian robbers that swarm about all the agencies and haunt all departments of the Government at Washington. If a half-dozen more Pacific Railroads would enable us to exterminate these enemies, we could afford the outlay. Perhaps the re moval of the Indian Bureau from the Interior Department to the War Office will substantially cleanse nt; as army officers are credited with an esprit du corps which disinclines them to vulgar stealing. But that Indian reform is near at hand, I am sure, because I know the modes are not difficult, and the people demand it. We shall then cease to hear of the necessity for more roads on account of the Indians.

In short, there are no good reasons for any more present ndowments in the shape of money or bonds, at least, to Pacific railroads. One pioneer line was an imperative national necessity, and the Government did wisely in encouraging private capital in its immediate construction Here we should stop, or at least pause, and wait for results. Let us see what fruit the experiment will yield. This pioneer line will be finished in about a year, and we can gather from its history a plentiful harvest of facts. These may be such that capital will be so encouraged as to undertake the other ventures without any guaranty from the Government further a portion of the wild lands made marketable by the building of the walls. Or it may be -for we are yet groping in the mists of theory-that such grave defects of plan and execution will be revealed as shall make us thankful that we went no faster. A leading daily ournal of this city-The Post-almost predicts disaster to the road, on account of poor construction; and one of the editors of another journal-The World-over his own signature, declares that a single-track road like this will be unable to do more business than keep itself in repair!thus conferring no benefit on either the public or the Government. The statement is starting; but, in view of the sad experience confessed by Government. our Erie Road, it may prove not to be far ciful. Should this gloomy anticipation prove prophetic. Congress may find itself compelled yielding to the tearful importunities of the starving bondholders. and to its own necessities for transportation, to advance money again to build a second track, laid with steel rails, in which event a pretty penny will have been saved by not having admitted more than one such costly elephant into its stable. Against all such probabilities, the door should at once be closed and barred, in the spirit of an editorial I read in THE TRIBUNE about a year ago; le us keep it locked for at least five years, while we watch for results, and till we are certain that we can continue to pay the interest at least on our present public debt. J. M. W. New-York, June 22, 1868.

THE PUBLIC LANDS.

ROAD GRANTS. To the Honorable the Senate of the United States:

A PROTEST FROM WORKINGMEN AGAINST RAIL-The undersigned would respectfully represent to your honorable body that a strong and rapidly-growing feeling exists among the people of the United States, and especially among the industrial and producing classes against the whole policy of the Government in respect to the donation of the public lands to railroad companies and other corporate or private enterprise. It is seen that under the guise of public utility, companies of specula-tive adventurers secure gigantic monopolice by legislative enactments, obtain, in like manner, from National, State, and municipal aid and credit, the funds for carrying forward their respective works, which, if con-structed at all, are thus constructed at public cost, and structed at all, are thus constructed at public cost, and not by private means, although run for private emolument, and only incidentally serving the public good; and in addition to these great advantages the same parties receive enormous grants of the public lands. These lands are then held out of the market, except at advanced rates over Government prices, and the flow of population is thereby impeded—the national domain being shut out from its only rightful occupiers, the actual settler—except the aggregate of their small means shall go to swell the private fortunes of those combinations of speculators whose only merit is that they forestall the public need, whose only service is their manipulation of public measures for their own aggrandizement and power. It is further seen that the railroads themselves receive no substantial advantage from all the grants of land made to their promoters for the ostensible purpose of adding in the construction of such roads; that settlements are thereby repelled from the lines of communication, and the roads deprived of the revenues which would accure if the lands bordering upon them were open to public occupation at established and revenues which would accrue if the lands bordering upon them were open to public occupation at established and uniform rates, and that the donated lands and their proceeds are, in fact, the spoils of the corporators and contractors, and NoT the endowment of the roads. Your memorialist regards the so-called treaty with the Great and Little Osage tribe of Indians, now pending the action of your honorable body, as fostering one of the most flagrant of this class of monopolies. A tract of land, mostly of great value for settlement, comprising 8,00,000 acres, or a territory larger than the entire State of Mas acres, or a territory larger than the entire State of Mas sachusetts, and susceptible of at least equal develop ment and wealth, is, by the terms of this extraordinary acres, or a territory larger than the entire state of Massachusetts, and susceptible of at least equal development and wealth, is, by the terms of this extraordinary compact, to be conveyed by the authority and with the sanction of the Senate of the United States to certain private persons known as the Lawrence, Leavenworth and Galiveston Railroad Company, under the pretense of its being an endowment of this road—the construction of which is not even secured by this instrument to any reasonable extent. Your memorialist, as an humble representative of the labor interests of the country, respectfully and earnestly protests against such disposition of these lands, which, together with all other Indian reservations retroceded to the United States, ought to be exclusively allotted for the homes of the people whose right it is to settle upon and occupy the public lands of the nation, unhindered by any monopoly, and without the payment of any price to individuals or corporations. And your memorialist would further declare that, in his opinion, the legislation of the country should be directed to preserving this right as among the most sacred of human inheritance, and that the function of the State has ceased when it has placed such just limits to the quantity of land which any one person may legally hold or convey, as in its discretion ought to be prescribed, and when it has established such price as may be deemed reasonable for surveying and other legitimate expenses, which price should be uniform and permanent; and that the appropriation of the public lands—the domain of the people—to incorporated companies or other combinations, is contrary to the rights of the people, to the interests of the nation, and to a wise and enlightened public policy. Wherefore he prays that the said Osage treaty, and any other similar treaty may not be confirmed by your honorable body.

A REMARKABLE INSURANCE CASE.

A REMARKABLE INSURANCE CASE.

James T. Campbell, a citizen of South Carolina, instituted an action against the Home Insurance Company of New-York upon a polley of insurance affected at the agency of the Company in Charleston. The defense set up was that after the loss, but before the adjustment and before suit in South Carolina, the claim had been attached by a creditor in New-York and the money paid over by the Company there to the executor of the attaching creditor. The grounds taken in reply to this defense were as follows: First, that the record of the attachment proceedings produced in evidence was necomplete; secondly, that the claim of the assured against the insured upon an open policy, after a loss before adjustment, is not attachable in these United States, unless expressly made so by local statute; thirdly, that A REMARKABLE INSURANCE CASE. against the insured upon an open policy, after a loss before adjustment, is not attachable in these United States, unless expressly made so by local statute; thirdly, that it was the intention of the Legislature, in passing the act of 1836, to place foreign upon the footing of domestic companies in all that related to their contracts with the citizens of South Carelina, and the liabilities accraing thereon, and to give to the policy holder the protection of the local laws, and the convenience of a domestic fomin; that the effect of thus domesticating the foreign corporation as to this class of its contracts, was to render an indebtedness or liability incured upon a policy effected at the agency here, a debt or liability of a strictly domestic character due from one citizen of the State to another, and snable in the domestic forum; that the State of South Carolina having thus seen fit to localize these foreign corporations, there was no principle of law or comity which required or would justify a court sitting under the authority of this legislation, to hold that notwithstanding these anxious regulations by a competent authority to keep it at home, the debt or liability when it arises is a foreign debt, or from a debtor in a foreign jurisdiction, and attachable there upon the common principle of property, which the citizen of one State subjects to the sovereign authority of atrial of three days' duration the jury returned a verdict for the amount of their claims.

A grand hotel is to be built at Chicago by Potter Palmer, the millionaire, for George S. Leland of the Union Hotel, Saratoga Springs.

THE KU-KLUX KLAN. TRIAL OF THE COLUMBUS (GA.) PRISONERS FOR THE MURDER OF G. W. ASHBURN, A MEMBER OF THE GEORGIA CONSTITUTIONAL CONVEN-"IIIAXX From Our Special Correspondent ATLANTA, Ga., July 1, 1868.

M. J. Wellborn, esq., of Columbus, admitted as additional counsel for prisoners. Cross examination (resumed by the Hon. Alex. Stephens) of the witness Charles Marshall.-Don't know character of the house where Ashburn lived; never was in house before that night; by public report heard it spoken of as a bad house; do not know that it is notoriously a house of house; do not know that it is notoriously a house of ill-fame; believe it is kept by Hannah Flournoy, a colored woman; far as I know Ashburn lived there; not positive; think I had seen and spoken to Bedell that night; not positive; had a difficulty with Ashburn fore part of the afternoon; perhaps between 3 and 4 o'clock; not positive as to hour; went around town afternoon to several places; stopped in two saloons, Arbor and Coak's Hotel; some persons there; don't know who; then went to my quarters about 5 o'clock; went to supper at friend's house, McSpadden; back to barracks about 8:30; remained till after roll-call; roll-call at 9; half hour afterward went around to Broad-st, and got a drink as Ruby Saloon; hack to quarters; staid there till about 114 o'clock; then left to go to the meeting; passed sentry; don't remember who sentry was; never was any restriction on my passing out; I was in charge of the company there; coat was given me near Perry House; Hennis and the lone of the Democratic Club that I had three suits, citizens, to use when working for them; told him I could get them; don't know as I ever worked for Democratic Club; it was interference in the election that caused my arrest by Capt. Mills: accused me of influencing men to vote; parties who spoke to me about the watch were Democrats; cooperated with them in the election conducted at Columbus as nearly all the elections; sentrice at the door: there was not a row of sentries through which voters passed; no difficulty for colored men going to onte the Democratic ticket to get access to polis; it was not my business to conduct that class of voters to the polis.

[Here the Prestdent of the Court objected to the reloill-fame ; believe it is kept by Hannah Flournoy, a colored Here the Prestdent of the Court objected to the rele

not my business to conduct that class of voters to the polls.

[Here the Prestdent of the Court objected to the relovancy of such testimony. Judge Advocate said he was desirous of allowing the fullest latitude. Court remarked they were willing to hear any matter introduced that had a bearing on the case. Here followed consultation among counsel for defense—a pause of some minutes].

[Cross-examination resumed.—The parties were masked masks of different kinds; mine an ordinary pasteboard mask; not positive as to Bedeil's mask; Barber had a dark mask; so had Hudson; Duke's was a smal one; came down just above his chin; Malone had on one something like mine; couldn't say as to Betz; didn't see him full in the face; Ashburn opened door of his bedroom; Barber, Duke, Malone, Hudson and Betz went in room; man I took for Betz had on pland pants and a thin coat; we entered Ashburn's room simultaneously; man I took for Barber went first; not positive who next; it was right there at the door; no one actually went inside Ashburn's room; but remained on threshhold of door; all those standing in door shot; did not shoot over anybody's shoulder; man I took for Hudson to my left; Barber to my right; others were right in rear of us; shot over our shoulders; when first saw Ashburn he was standing behind a table in centre of room; bed to right hand—there one of prisoner's counsel, sitting immediately in front of Marshall, turns square around and takes a long gaze at witness]—not positive as to other furniture; when doer opened candle was on table; think it remained there all the time; I threw away my mask in Jackson-st; tore it up first; threw off coat as soon as I left the house; threw it down in Ogelthorpe-st; did not know that Ashburn was going to report me for striking him, and Chapman that is strack him for that reason, but I told Foster Chapman that is strack him for that reason, but I told Foster Chapman that is strack him for that reason, but I told Foster Chapman that is swear that I said I was going to kill Ashburn; met

most influence—the whites.

By Court—Did not promise or intend to pay loan of \$100 received from Mr. Wilkins. A diagram of the house in which Ashburn was killed was here handed in by Major Smyth, and examined by Connell for defense; shown to witness, who says he think; it correct.

The cross-examination did not shake Marshall's testimony in the least.

ony in the least.
The next witness sworn was George F. Betz, a good-The next witness sworn was conge r. Dets, a good-looking young man, of apparently some 24, with sharp-cut features and hazel eyes. The oath was impressively administered by Gen. Duncan, the Judge Advocate. The examination of this witness was conducted by ex-Gov. Brown. Live in Columbus, Ga.; was raised in Columbus; Brown. Live in Columbus, Ga.; was raised in Columbus; parents live there; no occupation in particular; last employed on railroad as fireman; knew ashburn by sight; he is dead; I was present at his death; he died shot; there were between 25 and 30 persons present when he was shot; he was killed at Columbus, on Oglethorpe-st., in a house about 200 yards from Perry House; there was a vacant lot near it; never at house before that night; persons who killed Ashburn met in that vacant lot; went from there to the house; knocked at the door; asked for admittance; some one inside asked who's there; answered Mary Trillinghurst; reply was, who do you want to see? Hannah Flournov; can't last who do you want to see? Hannah Flournoy; can't let you in; too late; don't know who demanded entrance; didn't recognize the voice; door was broken in; can't tall how many came into the house; I went into the house; Duke went in, and they all went in (pointing to the prisoners.) [Here each prisoner named and pointed out by the witness, was told to rike so that the Court might see him. The witness then successively pointed out, R. A. Ward, James W. Barber, Wm. Duke, Robt. Hudson, Alva C. Roper, James Wiggins, Dr. Kirkseey, Columbus Bidall.] I am not certain of Capt, Chipley taken to be the one I saw from his appearance; large man; he was disguised; had on a dough face—a mask; man; he was disguised; had on a dough face—a mask; the man I took to be Capt. Chipley had command of the squad; Duke, Hadson, and Barber went with me into the house; all others were behind me; saw Marshall; also, Maione, Henry Hennis, Dr. Kirkscey

saw Marshall; also, Maione, Henry Hennis, Jpr. Airascey and Columbus Bidell, and a fellow named Bian; those who went with me were armed with pistois—revolvers, believe; mine was a revolver; went to third room; as we got to A. Believe; mine was a revolver; went to third room; as we got to A. Believe; mine was a revolver; went to third room; as we got to A. Believe; mine was a revolver; went to third room; as we got to A. Believe; and the gun; to best of my belief, 13 or 14 shots were fired; I fired, Dukes fired, Hudson fired farer he fell; Hudson went on his knees, squanting down, when he fired; after firing we went out; can't say who came to look at Assburn after he fell; Bidell's mask fell off before we left the room; heard him romark to a woman that he'd kill her if she told on him; Brument could be in the room without my seeing him; remained in vacant to 25 minutes before going to Anaburn house. Dr. Kirkscey; he called me to him; told me he wanted to join that party—the party to kill Asbburn; he said he'd give me so much money to go there—\$50 or \$100; I agreed to go.

Bet's cross-examination extended over every matter brought out in direct examination, and was very minute in its search as to Betz's intercourse with Mr. Whitiey, the detective who "worked up" the case. His testimony was not shaken. The defense appeared to make the mistake of framing questions in language above the capacity of the witness, who appears to be an illierate year than, quote inferior was a shared to make the mistake of framing questions in language above the capacity of the witness, who appears to be an illierate year than, quote inferior was a shared to make the mistake of framing questions in language above the capacity of the witness, who appears to be an illierate year than a shared to the proposal to the defense of the following will be occupied with the trial. Five more witnesses are to be examined for reverse and the defense will not, year than a shared to the defense of the following will be occupied with the trial. Five mor